

As we prepare to observe 100 years since the Armenian Genocide, these more recent acts of violence against Armenians remind us that the work towards peace in the region continues.

Today, we recognize the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms and to call attention to the work we have ahead of us. We have a shared responsibility to speak out when groups of people are targeted with oppression and violence just because of their ethnicity.

Along with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I continue my efforts to try and shed light on these events so that those lives lost are not forgotten. We will continue to promote mutual understanding and security through the Caucasus region.

It is my hope that we can all join together in condemning acts of violence in the past, and renew our commitment to vigilance in the future.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARK'S SCHOOL,  
SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Mark's School for its dedication to academia, guidance, and personal growth.

St. Mark's School, located in Southborough, Massachusetts, serves high school students from across the globe. With a dedicated faculty and a motivated student body, St. Mark's School is a model for high schools throughout the nation. St. Mark's School lays a foundation for young men and women, emphasizing a well-rounded education to spur creativity and analytical thought. With its roots in the Episcopalian tradition, the school values cooperation over self-interest, and encourages every student to explore their place in the world after high school.

For 150 years, the St. Mark's School has educated students in order to prepare them for adulthood. Joseph Burnett, St. Mark's founder, sought to create an institution that offered high-quality education. With this goal in mind, St. Mark's began with a single two-story building, painted with yellow and green blinds. This modest campus then started to grow, with the additions of a large schoolroom and dormitory in 1866. This growth continued through the 1890s until the campus grew to fill 250 acres. Today, St. Mark's is still expanding, with recent additions including a new athletic center, dormitory, and performing arts center within the last two decades. Joseph Burnett's dream currently benefits a class of 350 students from 19 states, the District of Columbia, and 15 nations.

Though St. Mark's began as an all-boys school, it currently educates both young men and women. In the 1970s, St. Mark's reached an agreement with the Southborough School to offer coordinated education for all students. The faculty and staff of St. Mark's understood the importance of spreading Joseph Burnett's dream so that all types of students could benefit from the educational opportunities offered by this establishment. St. Mark's continues to include students and faculty with diverse backgrounds, particularly those who have experi-

enced prejudice or disadvantages. The St. Mark's community embraces all types of students, which empowers every St. Marker.

The St. Mark's motto, *Age Quod Agis*, or "Do and be your best," is instilled in every St. Marker. These students are challenged every day, but receive constant support. Students do their best by receiving the best training in the most ideal academic setting. With a student to teacher ratio of 6 to 1, the classroom forms into a personal setting, tailored to the needs of the students. St. Mark's encourages students to do their best in the academic arena, on the athletic field, and in their campus community. St. Mark's school week traverses six days a week to instill personal discipline and academic excellence. The school week compliments the fact that St. Mark's is a boarding school. Students attend class together, work together, and live together, creating a school culture and community important for personal growth and socialization.

I commend the trustees, faculty and staff of St. Mark's School for spending their time and effort ensuring that their students achieve success. St. Mark's School has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to helping these students receive a proper education to prepare for the future. The St. Mark's faculty and staff inspire both students and professionals, and I am happy to recognize them today for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Mark's School in serving such an important role in the lives of generations of high school students, both past and present.

SUPPORTING A CLEAN DHS  
FUNDING BILL

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House on the dangerous position in which my Republican colleagues have placed the American people by refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Republicans in the House of Representatives voted in January to fund DHS only if we threaten millions of undocumented parents and children with deportation. Unless Republicans stop playing games with our national security and vote to fund DHS, the agency will not have the ability to maintain critical operations by the end of February.

We have a responsibility to demonstrate to the people of the United States and the leaders of other nations that we are capable of supporting national security without concern for politics. The partisan interests that have convinced many Republicans to oppose the Obama administration on immigration are not in the interest of our nation as a whole. The position of the Republicans imposes serious risks on the American people. The failure to fund DHS, as President Obama has recently reminded us, will impact one hundred forty-three thousand Department of Homeland Security workers who are responsible for the safety of our families and children. In New York City, DHS resources support our police and fire departments to protect the city and

the millions of visitors from around the world from attacks. Undermining the funding of the DHS threatens their safety and the security of our communities across the nation. House Republicans should not hold our national security hostage to a narrow agenda.

In the community I represent in Brooklyn, New York, the many first-generation and second-generation immigrants will suffer irreparable harm if we fail to fund the DHS. Who among would want to know the fear that a knock on the door in the middle of the night or a citation for a minor infraction such as jaywalking could result in permanent separation from their children?

Mr. Speaker, instead of playing games with politics, Republicans should focus on avoiding a shutdown of the DHS by enacting a bipartisan bill to fund the DHS through the rest of the 2015 fiscal year.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOK-IT REPERTORY THEATRE IN SEATTLE

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Book-It Repertory Theatre (Book-It) in Seattle and to salute the company's commitment to bringing great literature to life on stage.

Since its founding in 1990, Book-It has established itself as the nation's leader in narrative theatre, and over that time has transformed more than one hundred works of literature into a repertory of works of live theatre. Book-It's adaptation style has also been honed into a highly effective tool for teaching literature of all kinds, resulting in the current launch of its Literacy Initiative with Washington State schools.

Twenty-five years after it began as an artists' collective, the company's mainstage works are seen by 20,000 theatre-goers annually, and its prolific Arts and Education programs serve as many as 62,000 students through performances, workshops, and residencies State-wide.

Classic works by vaunted authors like Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, Edith Wharton, Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, John Irving, Maya Angelou, Michael Chabon, and many more have been adapted into Book-It plays alongside treasured writers who live in the great State of Washington including Ivan Doig, Garth Stein, Stephanie Kallos, Jim Lynch, Jess Walter, and David Guterson. And Book-It adaptations have gone on to productions in regional theatres across the U.S.

The Arts and Education Programs, through alliances with school districts throughout the state, have helped to bring vital arts programming where it's needed, serving student audiences through performances of literature for youth, including bilingual plays for young people in areas with high immigrant populations, notably in Central Washington's food- and wine-growing regions.

Book-It's commitment to literature and literacy fosters community through partnerships with Seattle and regional libraries, as well as King County's 4Culture, which connects Book-It artists with regional historical, cultural, and